

MEETING MINUTES CITY OF MILPITAS

Minutes of: Special Meeting of the Milpitas City Council
Date: Thursday, March 29, 2018
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: Milpitas Community Center, Rooms 7/8
457 East Calaveras Blvd., Milpitas

ROLL CALL

Mayor Tran called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and led all in the pledge of allegiance. City Clerk Mary Lavelle noted the roll.

PRESENT: Mayor Tran, Vice Mayor Grilli and Councilmember Nuñez

ABSENT: Councilmembers Barbadillo and Phan

Senior staff present included City Manager Julie Edmonds-Mares, Planning Director Bradley Misner, Recreation Services Director Renee Lorentzen and City Clerk Mary Lavelle, among others.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Frank DeSmidt invited the Council and community to several upcoming events by the Milpitas Rotary Club and St. John the Baptist Knights of Columbus.

Charlene Tsai announced a Chamber of Commerce event on April 18 for an educational seminar.

Steve Sedell, Milpitas resident, spoke of scientists and their research work that may possibly have application to wind patterns in Milpitas and San Jose around Newby Island, in order to see if that facility is putting up bacteria and viruses into the air in the area north and south of Milpitas.

STUDY SESSION - UPDATE ON GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

City Manager Julie Edmonds-Mares introduced the agenda for the evening, stating this was a critical time for the community, with important work to do to come up with great places in the city for people to live and gather. At this meeting, Council, staff and the public would be diving into Land Use planning topics along with discussion on the upcoming update to the city's General Plan.

Planning Director Brad Misner commented on the fast-moving time frame here in Silicon Valley, with efforts to move efficiently. He reviewed five meeting objectives and then asked Council to answer some visioning questions to start:

Assets: what does Council most value?

Challenges: what issues were facing the City to be addressed in the General Plan?

Vision: what three things did the Council want accomplished by 2040?

Councilmembers were asked to write items down on post-it notes and place on signs.

Next, Mr. Misner reviewed the status of City-wide policy studies including:

- 20 projects (on displayed lists) including the General Plan, TASP, MidTown Specific Plan update and more
- Discussion of how studies related to each other and what data was needed

Regarding the update to the City of Milpitas General Plan, consultant Mr. Ben Ritchie, Principal from The De Novo Planning Group, addressed the Council. He'd worked on a lot of data, with updated maps of the City, to proceed on the update project. The General Plan website continued to be updated, including the status of Project Tasks. He had recently prepared a summary of Existing Conditions Report, which would soon be published and put up on the website which he termed "a good read" for the public.

Mr. Ritchie discussed the role of the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC). He explained the group works in the spirit of consensus and had met six times to date. Next, he asked if Council had questions.

Councilmember Nuñez asked about green space. Mr. Ritchie pointed to the maps, and what was on the land use map. Mr. Nuñez asked about location for solar farms and clean energy, and looking at County property at the edge of the City. He stressed the relationship between government entities was important in this plan.

At 6:45 PM, the City Council took a break and returned to the meeting at 6:53 PM.

Planning Director Misner offered Council to make changes as they wished to the GPAC, and suggested that 1 or 2 Councilmembers could join the Committee. The Mayor and two Councilmembers present all expressed interest in serving with the GPAC members.

On the Land Use study, Mr. Misner described the updated the General Plan land use map and how it related to the Zoning Map. He pointed to large printed maps of the City, on which the City Council was invited to draw and give their input on potential changes to make. Council then participated in the hands-on exercise for about 20 minutes, engaging with residents and others in the audience.

For the next General Plan exercise, focusing on a real world example at California Circle, staff described the seeming conflict of land use versus the General Plan. Planning Manager Jessica Garner gave handout pages about this scenario. She displayed a map where some land uses were in conflict. She described uses and what had changed versus what some developers had proposed or rejected coming in.

Councilmember Anthony Phan joined the meeting at 7:52 PM.

Vice Mayor Grilli commented on past action of the Council, initiated by herself and Councilmember Barbadillo to stop any more housing in industrial areas.

Councilmember Nuñez asked some questions, wanting background on what past decisions were based on, and what the goals were for California Circle land uses. Mayor Tran commented a bit about land use there.

Mr. Nuñez wanted to know if the Council would comment on which of 1-20 policy studies would be covered in the General Plan. The City Manager responded they could prioritize those at another meeting, unless Council was prepared to give input at this time.

The consultant reported out results of visioning from the start of meeting. The focus was found to be on Affordability, Transportation and Partnering with other agencies.

Assets included community safety, diversity, family oriented city, parks/open space abundant recreation opportunities, great schools, public transit and a forward thinking community.

Visions included affordable and stable housing, multi-modal transportation opportunities, vibrant business, strong job market, walkable, community spaces and gathering places.

Mr. Ritchie read aloud what the public outreach meetings held last year yielded with past visioning and guiding principles voted upon. The top items revealed were schools, attracting business, maintaining small town character, and revitalized focus areas (including a downtown). He also displayed and described the GPAC website, and data that was available there.

Councilmember Phan wanted to know if the consultant could provide background of who participated in the survey, with information about those who attended the meetings in the past. However, the consultant said his firm did not keep any biographical data of survey responders or meeting attendees.

Ms. Garner said the next steps for the General Plan update would be to reconvene the GPAC group. Staff would like to work on some land use activity with them. Conduct more community outreach in earnest. Also, the city sought to update the GPAC membership and participation.

Councilmember Phan asked for a copy of the material presented at this meeting. Staff agreed to make the information available.

Mayor Tran thanked staff and the consultant for a great presentation and their work.

ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor adjourned the special meeting at 8:40 PM.

The foregoing minutes were approved by Milpitas City Council on April 17, 2018.

Mary Lavelle
Milpitas City Clerk